

rushed to implement election laws, policies, and practices that could never pass muster under the Section 5 preclearance regime. My constituents remember very well the Voter ID law passed in Texas in 2011, which required every registered voter to present a valid government-issued photo ID on the day of polling in order to vote. The Justice Department blocked the law in March of 2012, and it was Section 5 that prohibited it from going into effect. At least it did until the Shelby decision, because on the very same day that Shelby was decided officials in Texas announced they would immediately implement the Photo ID law, and other election laws, policies, and practices that could never pass muster under the Section 5 preclearance regime.

The Texas Photo ID law was challenged in federal court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the decision of U.S. District Court Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos that Texas' strict voter identification law discriminated against Blacks and Hispanics and violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Madam Speaker, protecting voting rights and combating voter suppression schemes are two of the critical challenges facing our great democracy. Without safeguards to ensure that all citizens have equal access to the polls, more injustices are likely to occur and the voices of millions silenced. Those of us who cherish the right to vote justifiably are skeptical of Voter ID laws because we understand how these laws, like poll taxes and literacy tests, can be used to impede or negate the ability of seniors, racial and language minorities, and young people to cast their votes. Consider the demographic groups who lack a government issued ID:

- African Americans: 25 percent;
- Asian Americans: 20 percent;
- Hispanic Americans: 19 percent;
- young people, aged 18 through 24: 18 percent;
- persons with incomes less than \$35,000: 15 percent;

And there are other ways abridging or suppressing the right to vote, including:

- Curtailing or eliminating early voting;
- ending same-day registration;
- not counting provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct on Election Day will not count;
- eliminating adolescent pre-registration;
- shortening poll hours.

Lessening the standards governing voter challenges thus allowing self-proclaimed "ballot security vigilantes" like the King Street Patriots to cause trouble at the polls.

Madam Speaker, on this day, the 56th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on August 6, 1965, I call upon the leadership of Congress in both chambers to bring to a vote legislation intended to protect the right to vote of all Americans.

Specifically, I call for the passage of H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, of which I am an original co-sponsor, which repairs the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court's Shelby decision. This legislation provides even greater federal oversight of jurisdictions which have a history of voter suppression and protects vulnerable communities from discriminatory voting practices. Madam Speaker, before concluding there is one other point I would like to stress.

In his address to the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, President Johnson said:

"Presidents and Congresses, laws and lawsuits can open the doors to the polling places and open the doors to the wondrous rewards which await the wise use of the ballot.

"But only the individual Negro, and all others who have been denied the right to vote, can really walk through those doors, and can use that right, and can transform the vote into an instrument of justice and fulfillment."

In other words, political power, and the justice, opportunity, inclusion, and fulfillment it provides, comes not from the right to vote but in the exercise of that right. And that means it is the civic obligation of every citizen to both register and vote in every election, state and local as well as federal. Because if we can register and vote, but fail to do so, we are guilty of voluntary voter suppression, the most effective method of disenfranchisement ever devised. And in recent years, Americans have not been doing a very good job of exercising our civic responsibility to register, vote, and make their voices heard.

Madam Speaker, for millions of Americans, the right to vote protected by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things. So on this 56th anniversary of that landmark law, let us rededicate ourselves to honoring those who won for us this precious right by remaining vigilant and fighting against both the efforts of others to abridge or suppress the right to vote and our own apathy in exercising this sacred right.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (RETIRED) JOSEPH FRENCHMAN KYLES

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader, soldier, veteran, and dedicated civil servant, SFC (Ret.) Joseph F. Kyles, who most recently retired from an impressive career with the United States Postal Service spanning almost three decades. He was honored at a retirement event on Saturday, August 7, 2021, at 6 p.m. at the Columbus Civic Center.

Joseph Frenchman Kyles was born in Sampson, Alabama on July 26, 1950, to the union of Nathaniel and Corine Kyles as the oldest of seven children. He is the loving husband of Minister Nila Kyles, the father of four children, and the grandfather of five grandchildren.

In 1972, Joseph Kyles answered the call to serve his nation and joined the United States Army. During his distinguished 20-year career in the U.S. Army, he became a non-commissioned officer retiring at the rank of Sergeant First Class. During his Army career, he served at Fort Benning in the Harmony Church area (specializing in Engineering, Weapon Night Firing, Leadership Training, and Tactical Training Maneuvers) and completed various overseas duties and assignments before retiring in 1992. To further hone his skills, he attended Columbus Technical College to obtain a degree in Engineering, Leadership, and Tactics Training.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Army, SFC (Ret.) Kyles built quite an impressive public service career with the United States Postal Service (USPS), beginning in 1992, when he started as a mail clerk. Over the span of 29 years, he served in several other capacities with USPS including mail handler, mail carrier, and mail truck driver.

Also, following his military service, he continued to serve his community and make an impact in the lives of others. His contributions include serving and financially supporting youth through Little League Football and Softball; Lonnie Jackson Academy Tutorial program; South Columbus Coalition; South Columbus Exchange Club; Youth of the Year program; and The House Of Refuge Ministry with his wife and son, Darian Hall, who is the pastor. He has also served as mentor and financial supporter for his fellow Veterans by assisting and transporting veterans to and from appointments, helping them acquire benefits and receive medical supplies for life endurance following their military service.

Douglas Adams once said that "To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." SFC (Ret.) Joseph F. Kyles has demonstrated through his career and life, outstanding achievement, service, and public distinction. Our community, our state, and our nation are better because of him. In honor of his commendable accomplishments and years of service, B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor of Columbus, Georgia, signed a proclamation declaring August 7, 2021 as "Joseph Frenchman Kyles Day".

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District in honoring and commending SFC (Ret.) Joseph Frenchman Kyles for his outstanding service to his nation, community, and humankind as well as upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Postal Service. We extend our best wishes to him as he begins a new chapter in his life.

#### HONORING THE BIG RED BARREL PROJECT

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the tenth anniversary of the Big Red Barrel Project, founded in Livingston County.

On Good Friday in 2011, two local residents, Joe Carney and Terry Murray, struck up a conversation with then-Under Sheriff Mike Murphy. The three men were attending a biannual DEA drug takeback event and agreed that safe disposal of prescription drugs should happen every day—not just every two years.

What began with that conversation turned into the original Big Red Barrel, a metal dropbox at the Michigan State Police Post in Brighton where folks could safely dispose of their unused medications. Today, there are more than 75 Big Red Barrels all over the state.

In addition to the permanent locations, sponsors have teamed up with the drain commissioner to host several events at local recycling centers where residents can drop off needles in addition to prescription pills.

In its first decade, the Big Red Barrel project has safely disposed of over 20 tons of unused medications. It's lifesaving work, because as that number grows, it means more pills out of the wrong hands and out of municipal water systems.

Michiganders don't admire problems from afar—when they see something that needs fixing, they go out and do it. For ten years, the Big Red Barrel Project has been a perfect example of folks coming together for the common good. I'm proud to recognize it, and I wish this community project the best for the next 10 years to come.

IN HONOR OF JAMES STEWART  
MCFARLAND

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, James Stewart "Jim" McFarland. Mr. McFarland lives in North Middletown, Kentucky. He celebrates his 90th birthday on August 12th.

Mr. McFarland served our nation in the United States Army in the 1950's during the Korean Conflict. Following his military service, he returned to Bourbon County and worked in electronics repair.

In 1959, Mr. McFarland began serving the people of North Middletown as a volunteer firefighter. He became chief of the North Middletown Volunteer Fire Department in 1971. As Chief, he was instrumental in acquiring funds for and overseeing the construction of the fire station that is still in use today in North Middletown. He also was a key resource in the formation of the Little Rock Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. McFarland conducted numerous fire training classes both in Bourbon County and throughout Central Kentucky. Currently, Mr. McFarland serves as assistant fire chief for the North Middletown community.

In addition to his 62 years of service with the Fire Department, Mr. McFarland has participated in seven mission trips to Honduras where he used his carpentry skills on numerous construction projects. He also serves North Middletown Christian Church as an elder, a deacon, and property committee chair.

For all the ways that Mr. McFarland has served our nation and his community, he is to be commended and appreciated. It is my honor to recognize James Stewart McFarland on the occasion of his 90th birthday before the United States Congress.

OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM ACT OF  
2021

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Ocean Shipping Reform Act of

2021," with Congressman DUSTY JOHNSON (R-SD). Our bipartisan legislation would better support American exporters by ensuring reciprocal trade to help reduce the United States' longstanding trade imbalance export-driven countries like mainland China.

This would be the first major overhaul of federal regulations for the global ocean shipping industry time since Congress passed the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-258). There has since been considerable consolidation amongst the "foreign-based ocean carriers, coinciding with the continued decline of the U.S.-flagged international fleet. In late 2001, the People's Republic of China was granted permanent normal trade relations with the United States, so-called "most-favored nation" status, following the country's admission to the World Trade Organization.

Foreign businesses' access to the American market and our consumers is a privilege, not a right. California's agricultural exporters and other businesses are willing to pay to ensure that their products reach emerging markets in the Asia-Pacific. In turn, companies looking to offload foreign-made products at West Coast ports must provide opportunities for American exports. Congress must ensure reciprocity in trade with other countries to reduce the United States' trade imbalance, particularly with cheap imports from Asia. Even during a global pandemic, trade must be mutually beneficial, and that is exactly what our bipartisan bill would ensure.

On March 9, 2021, Congressman JOHNSON and I joined over 100 Members of Congress in a bipartisan letter urging the Federal Maritime Commission to crack down on anti-competitive, unfair, and likely illegal business practices by some ocean carriers during the height of the pandemic in 2020. Dozens of agricultural exporters contacted my office reporting that ocean carriers simply refused to accept cargo bookings for U.S. exports, instead choosing to send cannisters empty back to the Asia-Pacific, as quickly as possible. Outright refusing to take U.S. exports at seemingly any price is simply not an acceptable business practice by the ocean carriers.

On June 15, 2021, Congressman JOHNSON and I announced our intention to pursue this legislation, at the Maritime Subcommittee's hearing on the "Impacts of Shipping Container Shortages, Delays, and Increased Demand on the North American Supply Chain."

On July 20, 2021, the Federal Maritime Commission established a new audit program to assess ocean carriers' compliance with federal regulations on detention and demurrage and increase the agency's monitoring of the marketplace for ocean cargo services. This action underscores the need for our bipartisan legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members to co-sponsor the "Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021." As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where I serve with Congressman JOHNSON, and the former ranking member of the Maritime Subcommittee from the 113th to the 115th Congresses, I plan to make this legislation a major priority. Specifically, I hope to include our bipartisan legislation in the maritime title of the next Coast Guard Authorization Act for fiscal years 2022 to 2023.

CELEBRATING MEADVIEW VFW  
AUXILIARY 11014's 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish the Meadview VFW Auxiliary a wonderful 30th anniversary. The Meadview Auxiliary embodies the very best our country has to offer. Their work with Mt. Tipton Elementary school—particularly Constitution Day in September—teaches our future leaders to respect and engage with our great republic. We are in debt to your service.

Their Resource and Stand-down fairs assisted countless veterans and ensured our nation's finest have their voices heard in Congress. Each and every one of the Auxiliary's members and contributors are patriots; their collation of 100,000 poppies when disabled veterans were unable to meet proved as much.

The United States is in short supply of men and women such as yourselves. The Meadview community and the people of Arizona are blessed to have great Americans setting an example for generations to come. I am proud to be a friend of the Meadview VFW Auxiliary, and I look forward to continue fighting for Veterans' issues here in Washington.

SALINE COUNTY CAREER  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the Saline County Career Technical Education Center.

I commend Saline County for uniting to provide overwhelming support for this new educational center.

As the co-chair of the Congressional Skilled Workforce Caucus, I am excited to see Saline County invest in skilled workforce education.

This educational center will teach students skills at a young age, so they may receive a head start in the technical field of their choosing. This will allow these students to be career ready to enter the workforce after graduation.

The current workforce shortage proves that there is no better time to invest in skilled workforce education and America's next generation.

Thanks to many efforts in Arkansas, including the new Saline County Career Technical Education Center, the future looks even brighter. My home state of Arkansas will continue to have bright, driven, hard-working, exceptionally trained, and career ready students.

The Saline County Career Technical Education Center will serve as a new benchmark for Arkansas. I am humbled to witness the start of its inspiring future.